Excise duty on powerloom products

4712. SHRI K.RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Silk Weavers Federation have given call for a State-wise strike for indefinite period till the withdrawal of 10 per cent excise duty on powerloom products;

(b) whether Government have received any representation or have met any representatives from Karnataka in the matter; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to meet the demands of the silk weavers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any call given by the Karnataka Silk Weavers Federation for State-wide strike. The Government has, however, received representations from some of the powerloom associations of Karnataka for exempting small scale powerloom units from excise duty.

(c) The powerloom units having annual turnover of up to Rs. 25 lakhs, have been exempted from excise duty on their first clearances of Rs. 20 lakh in a financial year. Silk fabrics are fully exempted from excise duty.

GDP on agriculture

4713. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of GDP on agriculture during the Ninth Five Year Plan of the country's total GDP;

(b) what is the contribution of agriculture in the country's GDP;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase investment in agriculture in future; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) The average share of agriculture and allied sectors in the total gross domestic product

(GDP) at current prices of the country was 26.3 per cent during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997—2002). As per the advance estimates of national income released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the contribution of agriculture and allied sectors is 23.1 per cent in the total GDP during 2002-03.

(c) and (d) The Union Budget 2003-04 has proposed an increase in the Central Plan outlay in respect of agriculture and allied sectors from Rs.3,219 crore in 2002-03(RE) to Rs. 3,866 crore in 2003-04.

Non plan expenditure

4714. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spend on non plan expenditure during the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the expenditure on this head is gradually increasing;

(c) if so, the details of the increase during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that revenue on capital side is also being used to finance non plan expenditure; and

(e) what steps are being taken to minimise non plan expenses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) The accounts for April 2003 of the current financial year will be finalized only by 31st May, 2003. However, total amount spent on non-plan expenditure during the financial year 2002-03 (upto February 2003) is Rs. 2,39,532 crores. The figures are provisional and unaudited;

(b) Yes, Sir. The expenditure on this head is gradually increasing as per trends of past years.

(c) Details are as under:

(Rs.in crores)

Year	Actuals	Increase over last year
1999-2000	2,21,902	9,354
2000-2001	2,42,942	21,040
2001-2002	2,61,259	18,317